

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 PRS-01 PA-02

USIA-15 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 /113 W

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R 011325Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3388

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 14124

FODAG

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR, EAID

SUBJECT: WFP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE 28TH SESSION, SECOND
DAY, SEPTEMBER 30.

REF: ROME 14042

1. TUESDAY AM SESSION BEGAN WITH CONTINUATION OF AGENDA ITEM
4 ON RESOURCES OF PROGRAM. SESSION BEGAN WITH SECRETARIAT
ANSWERING SEVERAL QUESTIONS RAISED ON RESOURCE LEVELS AND
RELATED WFP PROCEDURES. GENERAL TONE OF ALL DELEGATION REMARKS
WAS TO SUPPORT THE \$750 MILLION PLEDGE LEVEL. SEVERAL
DELEGATIONS INCLUDING UNITED KINGDOM, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND AND
TUNISIA EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF DIRECTING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS
OF WFP RESOURCES TO MSA AND LDC COUNTRIES. DELEGATE OF
SWEDEN CALLED FOR AN EARLY ATTAINMENT OF \$750 MILLION TARGET
IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FORWARD PLANNING. COMMENTS OF NETHER-
LANDS, TUNISIA, INDONESIA WERE GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF
SECRETARIAT PAPER AND NEED FOR EARLY ATTAINMENT OF TARGET
LEVEL.

2. WITH REGARD TO CASH PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES, A NUMBER OF
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DELEGATIONS INCLUDING HUNGARY, PAKISTAN AND TUNISIA CALLED

FOR PURCHASE OF SUCH COMMODITIES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SECRETARIAT RESPONSE TO THIS ISSUE NOTED PROBLEM WAS OFTEN ONE OF ADEQUATE SUPPLY ON SHORT NOTICE BUT THAT IT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PURCHASE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

3. DELEGATES OF NORWAY, PAKISTAN AND CANADA CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL PLEDGES FROM TRADITIONAL DONORS AS WELL AS PLEDGES FROM NEW DONORS IN ORDER TO ATTAIN \$750 MILLION TARGET. IN PARTICULAR NORWAY AND CANADA EMPHASIZED THIS BY CITING CHANGED ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES. CANADA CALLED FOR "FIRM ENCOURAGEMENT" IN IGC REPORT OF NEW DONORS AND WARNED AGAINST OVER-CONFIDENCE IN ATTAINING \$750 MILLION TARGET ON BASIS OF THE PROGRAM EXCEEDING ITS CURRENT (1975-76) TARGET.

4. USDELEGATE STATEMENT CALLED ATTENTION TO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL DONORS AND US HOPE THAT \$750 MILLION TARGET WAS ATTAINABLE. ALSO NOTED US PLANS TO CONTINUE NUTRITIONS MIX OF COMMODITIES. US AGREED WITH \$750 MILLION TARGET DECLARING WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INCREASE US PLEDGE AGAINST THIS TARGET SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND COMMODITIES.

5. DELEGATE OF JAPAN NOTED THAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SKEPTICAL OF \$750 MILLION TARGET BUT NOW HAD "NO HESITATION" IN SUPPORTING TARGET BASED ON ADDITIONAL PLEDGES THIS BIENNIUM AND PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM.

6. CHAIRMAN THEN NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OBJECTION TO \$750 MILLION TARGET AND DECLARED AGREEMENT ON SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATION THIS AGENDA ITEM.

7. PLENARY THEN PROCEEDED TO AGENDA ITEM 5 DEALING WITH EMERGENCIES AND BEGAN WITH DISCUSSION OF ITEM 5-B EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS INCLUDING SWEDEN, JAPAN, NORWAY EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN SECRETARIAT PAPER AND COMMENDED SECRETARIAT FOR PREPARATION OF DOCUMENT. ITEMS SPECIFIED INCLUDED SUPPORT FOR EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND WFP EFFORTS TO COORDINATE EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES.

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8. DELEGATE OF UNITED KINGDOM BEGAN HIS STATEMENT WITH WFP DEFINITION OF 'EMERGENCY' NOTING THAT DEFINITION CALLED FOR CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ABNORMAL NEED FOR EXTERNAL AID. UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS DEFINITION MAY HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN ON OCCASION AND BROADENED BEYOND ITS PERIMETER. HE NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF THE PROGRAM IS ON DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND NOT NECESSARILY EMERGENCY PROGRAMS AND CALLED ON IGC SECRETARIAT TO KEEP THIS FACT

IN MIND. UNITED KINGDOM STATEMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY GERMAN DELEGATE WHO MADE PRESENTATION ALONG SIMILAR LINES NOTING THAT OFTEN IT IS DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES THAT COULD HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED EARLIER DUE TO RELUCTANCE ON PART OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES TO REQUEST AID. THE GERMAN DELEGATE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT WITHIN WFP TO HANDLE EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES SAYING HE FAVORED TASK FORCE APPROACH IN WHICH EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL WERE CALLED TOGETHER ON /AD HOC/ BASIS AS REQUIRED.

9. U.S. DELEGATE NOTED UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMAN STATEMENTS AND POINTED OUT CONTINUING U.S. INTERESTS IN WFP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, WHILE CAUTIONING AGAINST OVEREMPHASIS ON EMERGENCY PROGRAMS. US DELEGATE SUPPORTED TASK FORCE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY GERMANY RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING PERMANENT EMERGENCY UNIT WITHIN WFP SECRETARIAT, NOTING THAT SECRETARIAT MUST EXERCISE CAUTION IN REALLOCATING STAFF ONLY TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. CANADIAN DELEGATE ALSO REQUESTED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF GERMAN PROPOSAL. PLENARY SESSION ADJOURNED UNTIL WEDNESDAY AM.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 14124

FODAG

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR, EAID

SUBJECT: WFP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE 28TH SESSION, SECOND

DAY, SEPTEMBER 30.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE-OF-WHOLE (SCW) RECONVENED TUESDAY PM AND APPROVED REMAINING FOUR PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL UNDER AGENDA ITEM SEVEN. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT ROUTINELY DEALT WITH THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THREE PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY CORRESPONDENCE. SCW THEN GENERALLY DISCUSSED PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNDER AGENDA ITEM NINE. DISCUSSION PRIMARILY CONSISTED OF INFORMATION QUESTIONS FROM DELEGATES ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES. US DELEGATE NOTED OUR CONCERN ON SOME PROJECTS WHICH WERE APPROVED ON A QUICK ACTION BASIS BUT HAD NOT YET CALLED FORWARD PLEDGED COMMODITIES.

11. SCW CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10 CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON LATENESS OF REPORTS, NEED FOR EVALUATION REPORTS WHEN PROBLEMS ARE IDENTIFIED, AND SIMILAR CONCERNS SHARED BY AMERICAN DELEGATION. US DELEGATE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FAILURE OF PROGRESS REPORTS DEALING UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH LONG TERM PROJECTS TO NOTE THAT EVALUATION REPORTS HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN ON THESE PROJECTS. REGARDING AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN DEALING WITH EVALUATION REPORTS, US AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS MADE STRONG STATEMENTS CONCERNING LATENESS OF DOCUMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT INABILITY TO ADEQUATELY DISCUSS THE REPORTS PRESENTED. US DELEGATE REITERATED SERIOUSNESS OF EVALUATION TO US CONSIDERATION OF WFP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND RESERVED RIGHT OF US TO COMMENT FURTHER ON CURRENT EVALUATION REPORTS IN NEXT IGC OR DIRECTLY TO SECRETARIAT.

12. CANADA THEN VOLUNTEERED TO REVIEW ALL EVALUATION REPORTS ON BEHALF OF IGC (RATHER THAN HAVE REPORTS DISCUSSED AT CURRENT MEETING) AND REPORT ON RESULTS OF SUCH REVIEW AT SPRING IGC MEETING. CANADIAN SUGGESTION WAS ADOPTED. /FYI:/ US DELEGATE PROMISED TO PROVIDE CANADIANS WITH RESULTS OF US ANALYSIS THESE REPORTS ASAP.

/END FYI/.

13. SCW SESSION ENDED WITH GENERAL DEBATE ON WFP REPORT ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN WFP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. ALL DELEGATIONS TAKING THE FLOOR ENDORSED REPORT. US DELEGATE MADE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS AS DIRECTED IN POSITION PAPERS. VOLPE

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